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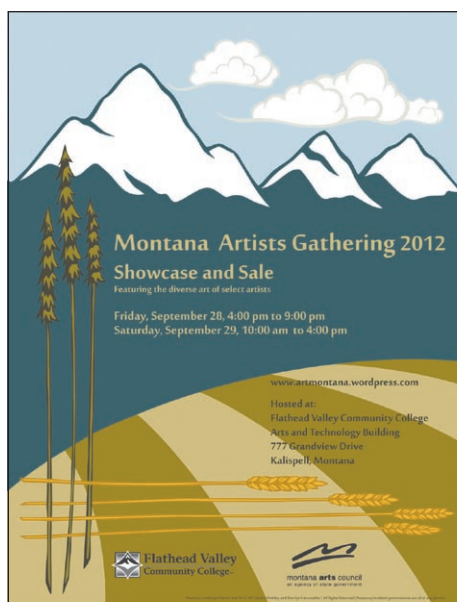
MONTANA ARTS COUNCIL NEWS

Artists Gathering 2012 Comes to the Flathead

More than 80 of Montana's visual artists enrolled in MAP (Montana Artrepreneur Program) will participate in the Artists Gathering 2012, Sept. 28-Oct. 1 at Flathead Valley Community College in Kalispell. They will showcase and sell their art to the public, network with each other, and learn more about the business of art, including tapping into the expertise of New York City's Creative Capital workshops.

The Artist Showcase features a rich range of media from 4-9 p.m. Friday, Sept. 28, and 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 29. The show offers something for everyone's taste - from traditionally forged metalwork to computer-generated graphic art, from hand-turned native wood lamps to contemporary fine furniture.

The artwork includes lamp-worked and kiln-formed glass, jewelry, hand-dyed silk, fine photography, hand-thrown pottery, free-form dolls, collage, beadwork, embellished gourds, hand-dyed yarns, wood carvings, one-of-a-kind journals, and framed artwork in



oils, watercolors and pastels.

This event has been designed to introduce artists and their quality work to galleries, architects, interior designers and the general public from across the state. The public will have the opportunity to purchase art and to interact with artists, learning more about the creative process and the work.

Artists, on the other hand, will have the opportunity to

share their art with the public, and also get to know other artists from across the state and begin the process of building collaborative relationships. Artists attending represent all areas of the state, including the Flathead, the Bitterroot, southwestern and central Montana, and as far east as Lavina and Roundup. The showcase will also include student work presented by Flathead Valley Community College Art Department.

On Sept. 30-Oct. 1, participating artists will divide into three tracks of workshops designed to help artists reach their goals of

becoming more sustainable in their business of art. Two of the tracks, offered by the Creative Capital team, feature a chance to learn more about building a presence on the internet and improving verbal communication skills. Creative Capital is a New York City-based organization, nationally recognized for its training and support of artists across the country.

Other topics include artists and the law, proposal writing, photographing artwork, branding, working with galleries, tips for becoming MAP-certified, and licensing. Workshop participants need to be part of MAP and to have participated in the showcase.

"This is an incredible opportunity for all of us interested in developing Montana's creative economies," said Arni Fishbaugh, executive director of the Montana Arts Council. "Through support from the USDA and LINC, with Flathead Valley Community College's welcome hosting, and because Creative Capital received special funding, we have been able to shape this kind of event to help artists learn more about the business of art, while giving them the opportunity to sell their work and share information."

For additional information about Artists Gathering 2012, contact Jan Shanahan, Flathead MAP coach at 406-862-2363 or janshan@wildskiindustries.com, or Cindy Kittredge, MAC Folk Arts and Market Development Specialist, at 406-468-4078 or elkittredge@dishmail.net.

Montana loses accomplished woodworker Gordon McMullen

At presstime, the Montana Arts Council learned that Gordon McMullen, a newly inducted member of the Montana Circle of American Masters, died Aug. 7.

"Not only does this artist reflect what it means to be Montanan, but his work stands as an example of excellence and his willingness to share his expertise is unparalleled," wrote Cindy Kittredge, MAC's Folk Arts and Market Development Specialist, in the last issue of *State of the Arts* (see page 21 of July/August).

The "83-years-young" Bozeman artist had worked with wood since he was nine years old, and created about 1,000 bowls a year, which he sold both within and beyond the boundaries of Montana.

A complete obituary will appear in the Condolences section of the next issue of *State of the Arts*.

Celebrating the Artists in Business program

By Cinda Holt
Business Development Specialist

The Montana Arts Council celebrated its Artists in Business program July 24 at a special ribbon-cutting ceremony at the offices of the Ravalli County Economic Development Authority (RCEDA) in Hamilton.

The MAC program is funded in part by a \$175,000 grant that comes from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and is one of four projects that the USDA is currently funding in the Bitterroot Valley to aid in rural development. The Artists in Business grant is being administered by Julie Foster at RCEDA on behalf of MAC, and even though it is housed in Ravalli County, the grant supports artists statewide through MAC's Montana Artrepreneur Program (MAP).

Matt Jones, who heads up the Montana office of USDA Rural Development was on hand along with many local and state dignitaries to cut the ribbon on four projects. The other rural development initiatives in the Bitterroot Valley include Rural Business Enterprise Grants awarded to Montana CiderWorks and Wild West Machine, and a loan from the Intermediary Relending Program to the Bella Valle Italian Family Restaurant.

For more information about the MAP program visit MAC's website at art.mt.gov.



Matt Jones (center) cuts the ribbon, flanked by (left-to-right): Julie Foster, Jennifer Ewan (Field Director/Counsel for U.S. Senator Baucus), Cindy Kittredge and Arni Fishbaugh.



At left, Office Manager Alice Mariana shows off some of the artwork for sale in the RCEDA office. At right, Cindy Kittredge, program director for MAP, discusses rural artists and economic development.



Matt Jones, head of the Montana USDA office, and Cinda Holt, MAC's business development specialist, greet the guests.



Cindy Kittredge and Julie Foster celebrate the first USDA rural economic development grant for artists.



Jennifer Ewan and Stevensville Mayor Gene Mim Mack test out CiderWorks' new beverage.